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Letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the press statement issued by the Security Council regarding the polio campaign, I would like to inform you that the Government of the Sudan is cooperating closely with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization (WHO) offices in the Sudan, and has consented to start immediately the polio vaccination campaign on 5 November in South Kordofan and Blue Nile and agreed to the timetable of the campaign. I also have the honour to confirm that the Government of the Sudan is committed to ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel; however, I would like to highlight that it is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) which is objecting to and creating complications for the start of the vaccination campaign.

SPLM-North is using delaying tactics through different ways of creating complications, such as calling for the importation of vaccines from neighbouring countries, while WHO and the authorities concerned in the Sudan have abundant and valid stocks of vaccines in the Sudan. Sometimes they call for the organization of meetings with the Government of the Sudan, mainly to politicize this humanitarian issue. Therefore, a strong message should be directed to SPLM-North solely not to impede the immediate start of the humanitarian campaign.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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